

to have an interview with you and Judge Battle.<sup>5</sup> Prof. Martin is expected in a day or two, and if he comes, I will probably be able to go down on Saturday week, if I shall learn in the mean [time] that you will be there.

Capt. Berry will be disposed to undertake the enlargement of the Chapel as superintendant [*sic*], if he succeeds in contracting for the new edifices, but not without Mr. Percival,<sup>6</sup> a letter from whom I send herewith, thinks that the enlargement of the Chapel can be as well done by contract as in any other way, & recommends the offering of all our work to the lowest [and most] responsible bidder.

I suppose Mr. Percival is at present in Raleigh, and if so, I wish you and Judge Battle to have an interview with him, ascertain his views, and when he will be ready to report plans, etc. There has not been for several years, so favorable an opportunity to secure competent & responsible contractors on as good terms as at present, and I am anxious to have our work offered to bidders at the earliest day practicable.

I am well satisfied that the scheme we have agreed upon is the best that can be devised. Mr. Kimberly thinks that by simply removing the lath & plaster partitions which divide the first floor under the Philanthropic Hall into dormitories, and throwing the whole space, 36 x 36 in the clear, & opening a trap door into the basement, we can have one of the best arranged laboratories in the U. S. The Hall, itself, without any change, will make an admirable lecture room, and the library is exactly what is needed for a mineralogical Cabinet.

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<sup>5</sup> William Horn Battle (1802-1879), a native of Edgecombe County, graduated from the University of North Carolina and read law with Judge Leonard Henderson. A Whig in politics, he devoted his talents to the law, serving as the state supreme court reporter, a superior court judge, and as an associate justice of the state supreme court, 1852-1868. He was professor of law at the University of North Carolina from 1845 to 1868. Twice he contributed to a revision of the statutes of North Carolina. After the Civil War, he was for a time president of the Raleigh National Bank. Hope S. Chamberlain, "William Horn Battle," *Dictionary of American Biography*, II, 58.

<sup>6</sup> Due to the influx of students to the university in the 1850s, it was necessary to add to the chapel and to construct additional buildings. A building committee composed of William A. Graham, David L. Swain, and William Horn Battle contracted William Percival, a retired British army officer, as architect. The firm of Percival and Grant, Architects and Civil Engineers, of Richmond, established a branch office in Raleigh to supervise the construction of New East and New West. Archibald Henderson, *The Campus of the First State University* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1949), 151-153, hereinafter cited as Henderson, *Campus of the University*.